

In the Claims:

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.121, please substitute for the original claims, the following versions of the same claims, as amended.

Please amend the following claims.

1. (Currently amended): A patient transport system for transporting a patient from a magnetic resonance imaging system to a second imaging system, the patient transport system comprising:

an elongated member having an upper surface configured to support a patient;

a first coupling mechanism attached coupled to the elongated member configured to removably couple the elongated member to the magnetic resonance imaging system; and

a second coupling mechanism attached coupled to the elongated member configured to removably couple the elongated member to a second imaging system.

2. (Original): The patient transport system of Claim 1, wherein the elongated member comprises a patient cradle and a table wherein the patient cradle rests on the table.

3. (Currently amended): The patient transport system of Claim 2, A patient transport system for transporting a patient from a magnetic resonance imaging system to a second imaging system, the patient transport system comprising:

an elongated member having an upper surface configured to support a patient;

a first coupling mechanism attached to the elongated member configured to removably couple the elongated member to the magnetic resonance imaging system;

a second coupling mechanism attached to the elongated member configured to removably couple the elongated member to a second imaging system; and

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wherein the first coupling mechanism is integral to the table and the second coupling mechanism is integral to the patient cradle.

4. (Original): The patient transport system of Claim 1, wherein the second imaging system is an X-ray imaging system having a pedestal, wherein the second coupling mechanism is configured to be removably coupled to the pedestal of the X-ray imaging system.

5. (Original): The patient transport system of Claim 4, wherein the elongated member has a structure suitable for supporting the weight of a human patient in a cantilevered fashion at the second coupling mechanism.

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6. (Currently amended): The patient transport system of Claim 1, A patient transport system for transporting a patient from a magnetic resonance imaging system to a second imaging system, the patient transport system comprising:

an elongated member having an upper surface configured to support a patient;

a first coupling mechanism attached to the elongated member configured to removably couple the elongated member to the magnetic resonance imaging system;

a second coupling mechanism attached to the elongated member configured to removably couple the elongated member to a second imaging system; and

wherein the first and second coupling mechanisms are on opposing ends of the elongated member.

7. (Currently amended): The patient transport system of Claim 1, wherein the elongated member comprises an aramid fiber material kevlar.

8. (Original): The patient transport system of Claim 1, wherein the elongated member has an arcuately shaped cross-section.

9. (Original): A patient transport system for transporting a patient in a medical imaging environment, comprising an elongated patient support member having a first end opposite a second end, wherein the first end is configured to be coupled to a magnetic resonance imaging device and the second end is configured to be coupled to an X-ray imaging device.

10. (Original): The patient transport system of Claim 9, wherein the elongated patient support member is suitable for use in both a magnetic resonance imaging environment and an X-ray imaging environment.

11. (Original): The patient transport system of Claim 10, wherein the elongated patient support member is made at least partially of a material including kevlar.

12. (Original): The patient transport system of Claim 9, further comprising a plurality of wheels coupled to the elongated patient support member configured to roll the elongated patient support member along a floor.

13. (Original): The patient transport system of Claim 9, wherein the elongated patient support member comprises a table and a patient cradle resting on the table, wherein the table comprises a mounting surface configured to receive the patient cradle in a substantially fixed relationship, wherein the table includes a plurality of wheels configured to roll the elongated patient support member along a floor.

14. (Original): The patient transport system of Claim 13, further comprising a manually-actuated locking mechanism configured to couple the patient cradle to the table in a fixed relationship.

15. (Original): The patient transport system of Claim 9, wherein the elongated patient support member is configured to support a cantilevered human patient load at the second end.

16. (Currently amended): A patient transport system for transporting a patient between two different medical imaging modalities, the patient transport system comprising:

a patient support surface comprising an a first end compatible with a first coupling arrangement on an imaging system and a second end compatible with a second coupling arrangement on a second imaging system.

a table separable from the patient support surface and configured to receive the patient support surface and to move the patient support surface between different rooms of a building; and

~~a coupling device configured to couple the patient support surface to the table, wherein the coupling device comprises an actuator configured to disconnect the patient support surface from the table.~~

17. (Currently/Previously amended): ~~The patient transport system of Claim 16, A patient transport system for transporting a patient between two different medical imaging modalities, the patient transport system comprising:~~

~~a patient support surface comprising a first end compatible with a first coupling arrangement on an imaging system and a second end compatible with a second coupling arrangement on a second imaging system; and~~

~~wherein the table includes a first end compatible with a coupling arrangement on a magnetic resonance imaging system and a second end compatible with a coupling arrangement on an X-ray imaging system.~~

18. . . (Original): The patient transport system of Claim 17, wherein the patient support surface is suitable for use in both a magnetic resonance imaging environment and an X-ray imaging system.

19. (Currently Amended): ~~The patient transport system of Claim 18, A patient transport system for transporting a patient between two different medical imaging modalities, the patient transport system comprising:~~

~~a patient support surface comprising a first end compatible with a first coupling arrangement on an imaging system and a second end compatible with a second coupling arrangement on a second imaging system; and~~

~~wherein the patient support surface is configured to support a cantilevered human patient load at the second end.~~

20. (Original): The patient transport system of Claim 16, wherein the table comprises wheels configured to move the table along a floor.

21. (Original): The patient transport system of Claim 16, wherein the actuator is actuated by a human operator.